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DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED 1907

GREATEST CRIMINAL OF THE PAST CENTURY.

STOLE MILLIONS—IMPRISONED BUT ONCE

ADAM WORTH,

ALIAS "LITTLE ADAM,"

THEFT AND RECOVERY

— OF —

Gainsborough's "Duchess of Devonshire."

[From the Archives of the UNITED STATES NATIONAL DETECTIVE AGENCY.]

NEW YORK—FEBRUARY, 1943.

SECOND EDITION

Pinkerton's National Detective Agency.

Founded by ALLEN PINKERTON, 1855.

WM. A. PINKERTON, Chicago.

} President.

JOHN D. HANCOCK.

General Manager, New York.

ROBT. A. PINKERTON, New York.

ALLAN PINKERTON,

Assistant General Manager,
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1903

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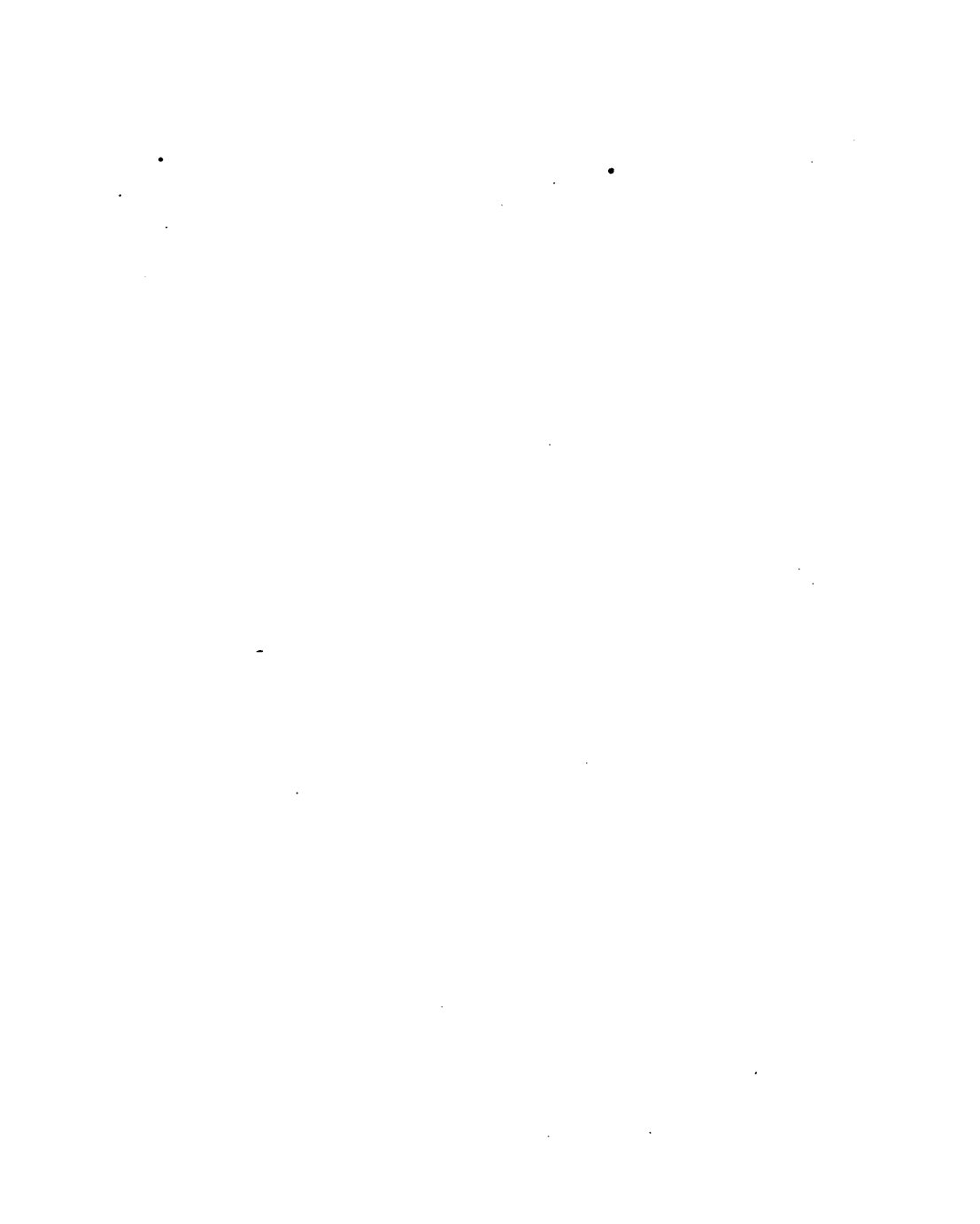
NEW YORK—FEBRUARY, 1903.

SECOND EDITION

COMPLIMENTS OF

WILLIAM A. PINKERTON, CHICAGO.

ROBT. A. PINKERTON NEW YORK.





GAINSBOROUGH'S "DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE."

Stolen London, Eng., May 28th, 1876.

Recovered, Chicago, Ill., March 28th, 1901.

PREFACE.

[FROM McCURE SYNDICATE ARTICLE, July 27th, 1902.]

THIS is the story of Adam Worth, alias "Little Adam."

If a fiction writer could conceive such a story, he might well hesitate to write it for fear of being accused of using the wildly improbable.

The sober, cold, technical judgment passed upon Adam Worth by the greatest thief hunters of America and Great Britain is that he was the most remarkable, most successful and most dangerous professional criminal known to modern times.

Adam Worth in a life of crime, covering almost half a century, looted at least \$2,000,000 and most probably as much as \$3,000,000.

He cruised through the Mediterranean on a steam yacht with a crew of twenty men, and left a trail of looted cities behind him.

He was caught only once, and then through a blunder of a stupid confederate.

He ruled the shrewdest criminals and planned deeds for them with craft that bade defiance to the best detective talent in the world.

The police of America and Europe were eager for years to take him, and for years he perpetrated every form of theft—check forging, swindling, larceny, safe cracking, diamond robbery, mail robbery, burglary of every degree, "hold-ups" on the road and bank robbery—with complete immunity.

There were three redeeming features in the life of this lost human creature.

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He worshipped his family and regarded and treated his loved ones as something sacred. His wife never knew that he was a criminal. His children are living in the United States to-day in complete ignorance of the fact that their father was the master-thief of the civilized world.

He never was guilty of violence ; under no circumstances would he have anything to do with anyone who was.

He never forsook a friend or accomplice.

Because of that loyalty he once rescued his band of forgers from a Turkish prison and then from Greek brigands, reducing himself to beggary to do it.

Because of that loyalty he became "The Man Who Stole the Gainsborough."

The reason for that theft will be told here for the first time. Until now, all who know it were under binding obligations of silence. The motive that caused the deed was unique in the history of modern crime.

And Adam Worth, who had millions, who once flipped coins for £100 a toss, who at one time had an interest in a racing stable, had a steam yacht and a fast sailing yacht, died as he had begun—penniless.

When Adam Worth died he was as much a mystery—aside from certain officials and detective inspectors of Scotland Yard, the Pinkertons and a few American police officials—even to the great majority of the police officials of the world, as he had been throughout his life. If he had not become prominent recently as the man who stole and returned the Gainsborough portrait, the public probably never would have heard of him. The story that follows is an absolutely true one, verified in every particular and vouched for by the men who spent almost half a century in trying to hunt him down.

Nothing in this history is left to conjecture. Before Worth died, William and Robert Pinkerton sought him out and induced him to go over the story of his career as they had gathered it from time to time, and he told them freely of all that he had done.





WILLIAM A. PINKERTON,
CHICAGO.





ROBT. A. PINKERTON,
NEW YORK.



PATRICK F. SHEEDY.

THE RECORD OF A CRIMINAL.



[From the Archives of PINKERTON'S NATIONAL DETECTIVE AGENCY.]



ADAM WORTH, alias Harry Raymond, was born in the year 1844 in the village of Cambridge, near Boston, of Jewish parents, who had emigrated from Germany some years before. He was fairly well educated. "Little Adam," in his early school days, was a precocious child, full of mischief; and at that time was addicted to making trades in playthings and various other articles with his school fellows much to their disadvantage.

He entered school when 6 years of age, and was very soon after, as he himself stated, drawn into a trade with a boy larger than himself, who offered to give him a brand new penny for two old ones. The new copper penny appeared so very plain and bright that it looked to Adam like gold; he therefore gladly gave two old pennies for it, and when he arrived home, showed it to his father, explaining how he bested a boy in giving him two old pennies for a new one; his father punished him for this, impressing on him the value of the new penny as against his two old ones. From that day until his death, no one, be he friend or foe, honest or dishonest, negro or Indian, relative or stranger, ever got the better of Adam Worth in any business transactions, regular or irregular.

During his early boyhood he was employed as a clerk in one of the leading stores in New York City, and, had he continued an upright life, he undoubtedly would have become famous as a business man. He was small of stature, dapper in appearance, neatly dressed and active. During the progress of the war, he became associated with some wild companions, whom

he had met at dances and frolics, and through them enlisted in one of the New York regiments for a bounty of \$1,000. This, so far as the Pinkertons are advised, was his first misstep. He shortly afterwards deserted, re-enlisted, and was stationed for a time on Rikers Island, N. Y., and from there was conveyed by steamship to the James River in Virginia, where he was assigned to one of the New York regiments in the Army of the Potomac. After participating in the Battle of the Wilderness, and one or two minor battles, he again left the Army about the close of the war, and returned to New York. There, on account of his acquaintance with bounty jumpers, he finally became associated with professional thieves and crooked people generally, and from that time on his career was one of wrong-doing. As in everything else that he undertook, he very rapidly went to the front among the crooks, starting first as a pickpocket, and later on associating with an expert gang of bank sneaks, acquiring considerable money, which, however, he invariably lost in gaming. On account of his ability as a thief, and always having money, he became associated with a desperate gang of bank burglars, first starting in as a capitalist, furnishing money to pay the expenses of the work, and later on becoming an active participant, and still later furnished not only the money but the brains and plans with which to do the work. In those days safe burglary was comparatively easy to what it is now. The strong steel vaults built in later days, and the protective burglar alarm were not then in existence, and the getting of money by this class of people was much easier thirty years ago than it is to-day. It was a study then between the safe builder and inventor, and the burglar who destroyed their work, as to which of the two was the more expert. As was said by a well known associate of Worth's, the difference between the enterprising inventor and enterprising burglar of the present time, is that the inventor was several years ahead of the burglar, whereas twenty-five years ago they ran neck and neck in the race for cleverness.

In the year 1866 Worth broke into the office of the Atlantic Transportation Company in Liberty Street, New York, and forced open the large double door safe containing \$30,000 in gold. The money, was, however, locked in an inner box inside of the safe, and he failed in breaking open the box before the appearance of daylight.

In the same year he and his companions robbed the safe of an insurance company in Cambridge, Massachusetts, of the sum of \$20,000.

After participating in several robberies through the East, and in fact all



ADAM WORTH,
Alias RAYMOND; alias "LITTLE ADAM."
Stole the Gainsborough.

over the country, Worth became associated with a gang of bank burglars, consisting of "Big Ike" Marsh, Bob Cochran, (now dead) and Charles Bullard, alias "Piano Charley" (now dead). In looking over the country for work, they visited Boston, Mass., and there Worth discovered that there was a barber shop adjoining the Boylston Bank on Washington Street. He rented this shop, stating that he was the agent for a new patent bitters, and started to fill the front of the shop and windows with his wares and at the same time built a partition across the rear of the shop. The bottles served a double purpose, that of showing his business, and preventing the public from looking into the place. The wall of this shop was next to the wall of the Boylston Bank. A careful measurement of the bank and of the shop adjoining showed the burglars just where to commence their work. They worked during the night for nearly one week, piling the debris in the rear of the shop and keeping the front of it clean. When they were prepared to enter the vault, which they did, they found therein three safes, which they tore to pieces and removed the contents, amounting to nearly one million dollars in money and securities. With this they fled to New York, where they were followed by Boston detectives, and, being advised through intimate friends of the presence of the detectives who were looking for them, they fled to Philadelphia, from which city Bullard and Worth sailed for Liverpool, while Marsh went to Baltimore and boarded a steamer for Queenstown. Before going they divided the booty. Cochran took his share, went to Canada, and bought a fine farm somewhere in the vicinity of Coburg, putting on it blooded stock, and about a year later he died suddenly of heart disease, leaving his family well provided for. Marsh was a native of Tipperary, Ireland, and went to his native town, accompanied by his wife, where he passed as an Irish-American who had made his fortune, and squandered his money lavishly. He gambled, drank, and did everything he should not have done, and eventually returned to America for more funds. In 1887, in company with another gang, he attempted to rob the First National Bank of Wellsboro, Pa. They were pursued and captured, and Marsh was sentenced to 20 years in solitary confinement in the Eastern Penitentiary at Philadelphia. He finished his time, less what he was allowed for good behavior, and, so far as the Pinkerton Agency is advised, is still living—an old man broken down in health, dependent on the charity of friends.

Bullard and Worth went to Liverpool, Bullard registering at the Wash-

ington Hotel under the name of Chas. Wells, and Worth, for the first time, assuming the name of Harry Raymond, after the noted editor of the New York Times. Bullard was inclined to live fast and dissipate, and became greatly infatuated with a barmaid in the Washington Hotel, who was known as Kittie Wells. Bullard afterwards married her under the name of Wells, and she became quite famous in Europe and America as a beauty.

Worth was not idle in Liverpool. He looked around for something in his line, and found a large pawnshop in that city which he considered worth robbing. In Europe, at that time, they did not put the safeguards over their property that they did in America, and he saw that if he could get plaster impressions of the key to the place he could make a big haul. After working cautiously for several days he managed to get the pawnbroker off his guard long enough to enable him to get possession of the key and make a wax impression; the result was that two or three weeks later the pawnbroker came to his place one morning and found all of his valuable pieces of jewelry abstracted from the safe, the store and vaults locked, but the valuables gone. The property stolen was valued at about £25,000. Worth then went to London, and Bullard, his partner, went to Paris. Bullard, under the name of Charles Wells, opened the first American bar there was in Paris, at 2 Rue Scribe. This resort was fitted up in palatial splendor, something like \$75,000 worth of oil paintings adorning its walls. The bar was fitted up with fine glass-ware, looking-glasses, and everything which an American bar had in those days. The Parisians were astonished by its magnificence. The place soon became a famous resort and was extensively patronized not only by Americans, but by Englishmen; in fact, by visitors from all over Europe. They made a specialty of making and serving American drinks, which, at that time, were unknown in Europe. The second floor of the house was fitted up as a club room, where files of American papers were kept, and which all Americans were cordially invited to use as a congregating place and many received their mail at this noted house. Later on, Bullard, alias Wells, who was an inveterate gamester, opened a gambling house on the American style, the club room being located on the second floor of the building, importing from America roulette croupiers and experts at baccarat. Mrs. Wells was a beautiful woman, a brilliant conversationalist, who dressed in the height of fashion; her company was sought by almost all the patrons of the house. The fact that gambling was carried on soon reached the ears of the police. They had made two or three raids on the house, but never succeeded

in finding anything upstairs, except a lot of men sitting around reading papers, and no gambling in sight. About that time, in the Winter of 1873 or 1874, Mr. William A. Pinkerton arrived in England in pursuit of the men who had robbed the Third National Bank of Baltimore, Md. This gang had been located in an English seaport, and while waiting for extradition papers to arrive,—it being impossible to arrest them without papers, especially in England, where, at that time, burglary was not covered in the treaty,—they suddenly became alarmed, and fled the country, possibly on account of Mr. Pinkerton having met two of the gang in Lombard St., London, by accident. Mr. Pinkerton had gone to Paris to endeavor to get trace of them, and, suspecting they would visit Wells's bar, kept a close watch there. Then for the first time the Paris police learned who Wells was. They said they knew there was gambling going on in the house, and had made several ineffectual raids to catch them at it, but on reaching the second story found only a number of men sitting around reading papers, with no gambling implements in sight. Mr. Pinkerton explained to the police, that when they approached the place to raid it, the bartender, or "look-out" on the first floor touched an electric button connecting with a buzzer in the gambling rooms, and gave the alarm. The suspicion of the French police had been attracted to the house from a robbery which took place in the barroom. The place was finally raided by the police and Wells and others were arrested charged with maintaining a gambling house, but were admitted to bail. In France, burglary was at that time covered by extradition treaty, and Wells, being held on a charge of gambling in heavy bonds, fled to England, leaving the house in custody of Raymond. One day, shortly after Wells left, a diamond dealer, who had frequented the place showing his wares, called in with a bag of jewels, which he carelessly placed on the floor at his feet. He requested Raymond to cash a check for him, and while the diamond dealer was being accommodated, Raymond attracted his attention. Instantly the bag containing the jewels was picked up, and a duplicate of it substituted, and the thief, who was Joe Elliott, a noted American crook, then in Paris, succeeded in escaping with the bag, which contained £30,000 worth of diamonds. The robbery startled all Paris, and was the means of attracting suspicion to the house, and after the gambling raid took place, the house lost prestige, soon went to pieces, and was afterwards purchased by an English book-maker, who continued the bar for several years. It was eventually closed.



JACK PHILLIPS,
Alias "JUNKA." Burglar.
Aided "Little Adam" in theft of the Gainsborough.

Bullard moved his wife to London, and she had in the meantime born to him two beautiful girls. Later on he ventured to the United States, where he was arrested in New York City, taken to Boston, and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for the Boylston Bank robbery. He remained in prison several years, from which he escaped. Meanwhile, his wife had obtained a divorce from him, and married a very wealthy planter, and by him had one child. Bullard drifted into Canada, and was later arrested and convicted of stealing chains from a jeweler's shop window in Toronto. He was sentenced to 7 years in the Kingston Penitentiary, and died in poverty shortly after his release.

Meanwhile Worth, under the name of Raymond, had moved to London, and taken luxurious apartments at No. 198 Piccadilly, where he received in lavish style. This house became the meeting place of leading thieves of America and Europe. His home became the rendezvous for noted crooks all over the world, especially Americans, and he became a clearing house, or "receiver" for most of the big robberies perpetrated in Europe. In the latter 70's, and all during the 80's, one big robbery followed another; the fine "Italian hand" of Adam Worth could be traced, but not proven, to almost every one of them, particularly where it related to robberies which required expert key-fitting, or the various heavy sneak robberies, which, at that time, were comparatively unknown in Europe. There were no express companies in Europe, and nearly everything was shipped by registered mail. On numerous occasions mail cars were found to have been either fitted with false keys, and the contents of the registered bags stolen, or that the locks had been twisted off and new ones substituted. The guards on the trains were supposed to be very careful of these cars, but their vigilance was of no avail; one robbery followed another in quick succession. Steamers going between Calais and Dover and Folkestone and Boulogne had their strong boxes robbed in transit, and in several instances from two million to five million francs were abstracted from the mails in this way.

In 1873 Worth made a trip with a party to South America and the West Indies. In the town of Kingston, Jamaica, they discovered that about \$10,000 was kept in a safe in one of the storehouses near the docks. They entered at night by the rear and worked at the safe, but the noise made attracted the attention of some one and the cry of thief was immediately raised so that they had to decamp. The following morning a negro employed in the warehouse was severely beaten. He



JACK PHILLIPS. Alias "JUNKA."
BURGLAR.
An unwilling Photograph.

was suspected of having committed the crime, because there were kept in the warehouse two large blood hounds which were supposed to interfere with strangers who might venture within their reach during the night. For that reason the owners thought that the burglar must be some one connected with the place whom the dogs knew. The fact was that Worth and his associate did not know of the presence of the dogs, and were very much frightened to see dogs coming towards them from the very side of the building where the windows through which they entered were located. Fortunately the blood hounds were quite friendly and did not even bark at the thieves, who after being reassured by their pacific demeanor went hard to work at the safe.

In 1875 a gang of American thieves, consisting of Carl Sescovitch, alias Howard Adams, Joe Chapman, alias "Little Joe," Joe Elliott alias "Little Joe" and Charles Becker alias "The Dutchman," were arrested in Smyrna, Turkey, for passing forged circular letters of credit, purporting to be issued by Coutts Bank, London. Previous to this, they had been committing forgeries all over Europe, and Worth was known to be their banker. They were tried, convicted, and sentenced in Smyrna to seven years imprisonment at Constantinople. About a year after their confinement, Worth, who was never idle, had conceived a plan to effect their liberty, and went on to Constantinople and arranged all the details, by which all but Chapman, alias "Little Joe" were enabled to escape from the Turkish prison. They made their way towards England, but while passing through Asia Minor they were captured by Greek bandits, who, in spite of the fact that their captives were fugitives from prison, held them for ransom. They paroled Joe Elliott, alias "Little Joe," and he made his way to London, communicated with Worth, and the latter raised two thousand pounds sterling, which money "Little Joe" took back and delivered to the bandits, and effected the liberation of his comrades. Chapman, however, did not succeed in getting out of prison in Constantinople, and served his full sentence. The others went to London, and Sescovitch and his wife made their headquarters at the house of Mrs. Joe Chapman, who was known as Mrs. Brown, on Brompton Road, London. It took considerable time before they could get to making money again. At last Becker prepared some forged paper on which £2,500 was realized; this forgery was speedily followed by another and another, and still a fourth one. On account of knowing the usual manner by which English bank notes were traced, to prevent detection, and evade arrest, after



CHARLES BULLARD,
Alias "PIANO CHARLIE."
Bank, Vault and Safe Burglar.

obtaining money on the forged paper, the thieves would at once flee to the Continent and get the money changed at brokers' offices, banks or exchange offices for notes of other numbers before the numbers of the stolen notes were published. In '76 they passed one of these checks, the money was sent to the Continent, as usual, and while one of the gang was exchanging the money in an exchange office underneath the Grand Hotel, on Grand Boulevard, Paris, he was arrested, and while he was not identified as the man who passed the forged check, or as having had anything to do with it, yet he was held on the charge of forgery; extradition papers were applied for, and, notwithstanding a strong legal fight in France, he was extradited to London, charged with being the principal in the forgery. The man arrested was a friend, and a great favorite of Worth, whose inventive brain at once set to work to release him. Worth declared he would get his friend out before a trial could be reached. This was not an easy matter, because the law in England is not like that in America, where almost anyone can furnish a bond. The bondsman in England must be a freeholder, and of good reputation. While plans for this man's release were being discussed and formulated, Worth and a companion—a notorious English thief named Jack Phillips, better known by the name of "Junka"—while walking along Bond street, observed a great many carriages stopping at the art gallery of Agnew & Co., on that thoroughfare, large crowds of people entering the place. Their curiosity was aroused, and on entering the gallery they found that the noted Gainsborough portrait, which was on exhibition, was the cause of attracting so many people there. This was, at that time, the highest priced picture ever painted by an English artist, and which had a few days before been purchased at a public sale of Christie's, by the Agnews, for £10,500. The thieves carefully scanned the painting with the other visitors. Leaving the gallery, Worth immediately told "Junka" that he had discovered a way of releasing their friend. Phillips wanted to know how it could be done. Worth told him that he would steal the Gainsborough painting, cutting it out of the frame, and by doing so would have means at their disposal to get their friend out of prison. The Englishman objected to the proposition, saying if they stole the picture, it would be a "white elephant" on their hands, that they could not dispose of it at any price, as the fame of the picture was world-wide. Worth revealed the plan he had by which the possession of the picture could be used to compel the Agnews to go bail for the thief then in custody. "Little Joe"

Elliott, who was connected with the forgery, was taken into their confidence, and a conference held. The plan, as outlined, was as follows: The theft was to be committed on a foggy night, which, in the Spring season, is very frequent in London. Elliot was delegated to be the "lookout," and observe the movements of the night watchman, and policeman on the beat. Jack Phillips, who was a very large and powerful man, was to stand underneath the window in front of the Agnew store, while Worth, who was a small and light man, was to mount Phillips' shoulders, and raised on his arms—like a circus performer—to the top of the sign, would spring himself up to the window, await his opportunity to raise the window, get inside, and with the aid of a step-ladder, cut the picture from the frame, roll it up, and at a given signal from Elliott that there was no danger of detection, would pass the picture down to Phillips. Worth was then to leave the place, going down the way he went up, closing the window carefully behind him, and all would proceed in the quietest manner possible to a rendezvous which had been agreed upon, where the picture would be safely hidden. It was agreed that Worth was to be the custodian of the picture. At first Phillips objected to the plan as outlined, arguing that it was not feasible, but Elliott and Worth satisfied him that it could be done, and it was agreed to make a trial, at any rate. On a foggy night, a night or two later after reconnoitering and finding a desirable opportunity to commit the theft, the street being comparatively deserted, the plan was carried out as outlined, Worth securing the picture, and fleeing in safety with his two companions.

Worth explained that he would go to an acquaintance, a solicitor of shady reputation, who was an ex-convict, and instruct him to call on the prisoner in the jail, and hand him a small canvas clipping cut from the side of the picture. The attorney was then to go to Agnew & Co. and say to them that he had a client in the Newgate Prison who could give them valuable information concerning the Gainsborough picture. The prisoner in jail was to say to them, that if his liberation was effected, he would guarantee to return the picture, and as an evidence of good faith, and that he was telling the truth, he was to produce the piece of canvas cut from the side of the picture, which they could fit on the frame as a test.

On the morning of May 26th, 1876, when the Agnew's opened their gallery, they were astonished to find the picture had been stolen, with no clew whatever to its whereabouts. The theft caused a great sensation. The Agnews offered a reward of £1,000 for the recovery of the picture, and had

photographs and descriptions of it sent all over the known world. The police were at first mystified over the matter.

Meantime, Mr. Besley, the solicitor who had been retained to defend the prisoner, and who is now an honored Judge on the bench in London, had discovered that there was a flaw in the extradition papers; that the man had been extradited from France as a principal to the forgery on the London and Westminster Bank, whereas he should have been extradited as an accessory after the fact, and on that plea a writ of habeas corpus was obtained, the prisoner was brought into court and the Judge ordered his discharge, and instructed that he be given 30 days in which to leave England; that if he did not leave by that time he was subject to arrest and trial on the charge of accessory to the forgery. It is needless to say that the thief did not need the 30 days; one day was enough to get out of England and disappear. That left the picture in the hands of Worth and his confederates in the shape of a "white elephant," which they did not know how to dispose of. They were afraid to trust anybody to return it for a reward. Gradually certain facts leaked out in regard to the robbery, which put the London police in possession of information as to who the perpetrators of the robbery were, but they had only hear-say evidence, and no proof whatever. Every possible ingenuity was used by Scotland Yard detectives to find the hiding place of the picture and fasten the crime on the thieves, but all efforts failed.

Meantime the picture remained in Worth's custody, in hiding in London, but Philipps, from time to time, had borrowed money from Worth for his interest in it, which they thought they might realize some money on eventually. This state of affairs continued for several years, until Worth and Philipps had a falling out. Philipps demanded that the picture be produced and he would pay his indebtedness, and buy out Worth's interest. An arrangement was made for a meeting at the Criterion Bar, in London. Worth suspecting treachery, secretly took a position, watched Philipps' movements, and found that he was accompanied by two well known detectives from Scotland Yard. Under the circumstances, neither Worth nor the picture put in an appearance, but the next time they met, which was in the Criterion, notwithstanding the fact that Worth was a small man, being about 5 feet, 4 inches high, and weighing about 150 pounds, he pounced upon Philipps, striking him a severe blow in the face, and knocking him down, and then kicking him until he was ex-



JOSEPH REILLY,
Alias RANDALL; alias FREDERICK ELLIOTT; alias "LITTLE JOE."
Burglar and Forger.

hausted, and was dragged off by the police. The differences between Worth and Phillips were never patched up, and although this took place over 20 years ago, they never met again up to the day of Worth's death, so far as the Pinkertons are advised.

Worth had advanced sums of money to Joe Elliott, alias "Little Joe," for his interest in the picture, and Elliott came to America, first having married Kate Castleton, a noted English comic opera singer, with whom he lived several years in America. In the early part of April, 1877, Elliott was arrested in New York, through the Pinkertons, charged with being the perpetrator of a forgery amounting to \$64,000 on the Union Trust Co. in New York, having forged a New York Life Insurance check on their company, and obtained the money. For this Elliott was tried in New York City, convicted, and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment. While in prison he sent for Mr. Robt. A. Pinkerton, and tried to make terms with him for his release, offering to restore the Gainsborough portrait to him, and told Mr. Pinkerton the history of the robbery and the names of the parties connected with it, as above narrated. These facts were communicated to Mr. John Shore, Superintendent of the Criminal Investigation Department, New Scotland Yard, London, England, and only confirmed what Mr. Shore and the London Police Department had then suspected concerning who the real perpetrators of the deed were. However, Elliott, having sold out his interest in the picture, could not control it, or deliver it, as he claimed he could, and the matter was abandoned. Elliott served his full term of imprisonment, and was afterwards re-arrested for forgery, convicted and sentenced to fifteen years; but was pardoned to die, and did die in a New York hospital a number of years ago.

In 1878 Adam Worth and one Megotti with several others robbed the express train running between Calais and Paris in Egyptian and Spanish bonds, valued at 700,000 francs.

Meanwhile, Worth was living on the "top of the wave" in England, had become wealthy, and was the possessor of a steam yacht called the "Shamrock," with a crew of twenty men, and also a sailing or pleasure yacht. He squandered his money with both hands, gambled and dissipated, and was at one time interested in the ownership of several race horses on the English turf. He became such a "bugaboo" to the English police that they eventually tried to drive him out by stationing a policeman in front of *his door*, and watching and reporting everybody who entered his house.

This can possibly be accounted for by the belief that Worth might have been suspected of having had something to do with a number of dynamite explosions which took place at that time in Europe, but of which he was entirely innocent. With his steam yacht he was in the habit of cruising all around the Mediterranean, and other parts in Europe, making annual tours, looking after whatever business he had in those countries, either going himself, or sending other people to attend to it. He made a number of trips to America to visit relatives, being thoroughly devoted to his family, and and on one of these trips sailed on the steamer Indiana, of the American Line, running between Philadelphia and Liverpool. There were only a few cabin passengers, and one of them was a former officer of the White Star Line who was going out to secure the captaincy of one of the steamers of the American Line sailing from Philadelphia. During a heavy storm at sea, the Captain, first, second and third officers of the steamer Indiana were washed overboard, and this man who was going out to secure the captaincy of one of the ships, took charge of the Indiana, and brought her through the storm safely to port of Philadelphia. Worth recognized the fact that there was considerable chance of claiming salvage, and advanced this man money with which to file a claim against the company for salvage. The company contested the claim on the ground that the claimant was going to enter their employ, and refused to recognize this claim. The matter was finally settled by the company paying the captain a large sum of money, upwards of \$50,000, which was divided with Worth. This is only narrated to show that Worth never overlooked an opportunity when there was any money in sight. On another occasion, while coming to America, he was to land at Montreal, and had with him a number of diamonds and other jewelry, which he had purchased from thieves in England, and which he was bringing to this country to dispose of. On the steamer on which he took passage a number of rooms had been entered and the passengers robbed. Worth had nothing whatever to do with this, but knew that he was apt to be suspected as he was a stranger, and left the steamer at Rimouski before it reached Montreal, and went by rail to Montreal. This fact had evidently been telegraphed, as a detective, one of the cleverest in Canada, met the train on which Worth was riding. The robberies on the steamer had been committed by a Swede named Adolph Sprungley, a steamship thief, but the detectives suspected the man who left the vessel at Rimouski, viz: Worth. Before the detective found the missing passenger, Worth sus-

pected what his mission was, and put the greater part of his diamonds back of the fire-board against the stove in the car in which he was riding. He was taken into custody, and charged with smuggling, some jewelry being found in his possession. He fixed the matter up with the authorities, however, proved his innocence of the robberies on the steamer and was liberated, but the detectives still suspected him of being wrong in some way although never knew how. After his liberation, Worth succeeded in tracing the car on which he left the jewelry, having taken the number of it, and when the car was put in the yard for the night, he entered it, and regained possession of the missing diamonds, which he afterwards safely smuggled into the United States.

On Worth's first trip to the United States on the steamer *Indiana*, he brought with him the famous Gainsborough portrait, having had a trunk made with a false bottom to it, and had the trunk filled with drummers' samples, which he paid duty on ; in this manner he got the picture safely into the port of Philadelphia, and from there it was taken to New York, and a special trunk made for its safe keeping and protection. This trunk was first placed in storage in a warehouse in Brooklyn, afterwards in New York, and later on, in Boston, which was its last resting place for a number of years previous to its recovery.

Meantime, during the 80's, Worth, to get rid of the suspicion that was against him in England, had decided on making a trip to South Africa, and in company with Charley King, and another noted English crook, went to Cape Town. While looking about there for something to do, Worth studied the manner in which diamonds in the rough were brought from the DeBeers and other mines in South Africa to Cape Town. He learned that these goods were brought by a special car with an armed Boer to Cape Town in time to catch an outgoing steamer for England. In company with King, they looked the situation over carefully, and concluded that the most feasible way to get possession of the consignment from the mines, was through what would be called in America, a "hold-up" robbery. They were both small men, and needed another man to help them out in their enterprise, and found in Cape Town the man they were looking for, an American sea captain, who was there in hiding, he being wanted in America for sinking his ship at sea for the insurance. He was "broke" and willing to take a hand in anything that came along, so the three of them went out on the road to intercept the conveyance with the diamonds. The following plan was arranged : The



JOSEPH B. CHAPMAN,
Alias "LITTLE JOE."
Forger.

coach they proposed robbing would reach a certain point after dark, and as it was being very rapidly driven, they would stretch a rope across the road to throw the horses off their feet, and upset the coach. It was their intention to run out, capture the driver, and overpower the guard. When they attempted this plan, the horses were thrown and the coach tipped over, but before they could carry out their plans, the big Boer guard in charge, who was armed with a repeating Winchester rifle, commenced firing in every direction, driving the thieves to cover. The consignment was delivered safely at Cape Town. This attempted robbery created quite a sensation, and King and the old ship sinker became alarmed and left the country. Worth, however, decided to remain to have another trial at it and see what he could do. The Postmaster at Cape Town was an old gentleman, very social in his habits, and Worth cultivated his acquaintance. After several months of patient waiting, he got an opportunity to get possession of the keys to the Post Office money safe. He was at last prepared to work ; took three parcels out on the road and sent them in registered mail, addressed to himself, and came in on the same train with the parcels, and waited until the Assistant Postmaster at Cape Town was leaving his office in the evening and went to him and pleaded that it was of great importance that he receive the packages, which had been locked up for that night. The assistant agreed to get them for him, and went back to get the books, and while his back was turned, Worth managed to get wax impressions of the keys to the safe for registered packages, received the packages which he had shipped to himself, and went about his business. He then began the difficult part of the venture, fitting duplicate keys to the wax impressions ; at last they were finished, and after several visits to the Post Office, he succeeded in getting the keys to fit so that they would open the safes, and although there were large amounts of valuables in them at all times, he was not ready to reach them, until, as he afterwards explained, got to the "darby," or big parcel. Being all ready to work and having no confederates with him at this time, he arranged another plan to delay the arrival of the diamonds, and prevent them from being shipped on the steamer they were intended for. At a point near Cape Town there was a deep stream, where the coach had to cross the ferry, which was operated on a wire rope cable ; nearby was a small tavern, and Worth waited until time for the coach to come, which was in the evening, and then cut the rope, which allowed *the ferry* to drift down the stream with the current. When the coach came

up it was unable to ford or cross the stream, thereby delaying them, and the steamer for England sailed without the consignment on this occasion, and the same was held over in the Post Office safe (for which keys had already been fitted by Worth) waiting for the next steamer to sail. Worth's plans were all ready to be carried out. The next night he entered the Post Office, as he had done several times before, and abstracted from the safe, diamonds and other valuables to the amount of \$700,000. The robbery created a great sensation, not only in South Africa, but all over Europe, and experts were sent out from England to investigate the case. Knowing that anybody who attempted to leave the country would be under suspicion, Worth quietly went up the country from Cape Town, pretending to be in search of investments and purchasing ostrich feathers. Previous to going he buried the diamonds and other valuables at Cape Town. He stayed several months in the interior of the country, in the meantime having sent to America for a confederate to come out and join him, and between the two of them they safely brought the goods out of the country, going first to Australia, and then to England. On his arrival in England, he was immediately pounced upon by his old partner, King, who blackmailed him out of a large sum, on account of his previous knowledge of the contemplated robbery. The Postmaster was suspected and arrested for the crime; there was, however, no evidence against him, but there was proof found that he had been embezzling money letters which passed through his office. He was therefore tried for this last offense, found guilty and sentenced to five years hard labor in prison. Having adjusted this affair, Worth brought a young American crook named John Smith, alias John C. Wynert, to London, Smith being a clever, educated fellow, and entirely unknown to the London police. He established him in his business as a broker dealing in rough diamonds, in the middle of Hatton Garden, London, opening an office there, and by putting their goods at a shilling or two on the pound less than the standard price in London, they had no trouble in disposing of all their goods to merchants who came from Amsterdam to London to buy; some were their real owners; that is to say, to the dealers to whom they were originally consigned in London from the South African mines, but were stolen in transit.

In the year 1878 there were stolen from the counter of a bank in Paris some 25,000 francs in bank notes of the Bank of France. A few days after this a confederate of Adam Worth went into the Exchange office of M.

Meyer, in the Rue St. Honore, to purchase English money for which some bank notes of 500 francs each were tendered in payment.

The Exchange agent had been warned of the theft and the losers thereby were able to give a few of the numbers of the bank notes lost, and one of these numbers corresponded with the numbers of one of the bank notes tendered, and upon noticing this the agent caused the man's arrest; after being six or eight months in prison the confederate managed to be set at liberty, but Adam Worth, who was near at the time his associate was arrested, swore vengeance against M. Meyer.

In the year 1883 the Exchange of Meyer was robbed of 250,000 francs in money and securities. The robbery was perpetrated at night, the safe having been forced open with jimmies. Of this robbery Adam Worth was the originator, and it satisfied his vengeance, as it ruined M. Meyer almost completely.

During the time that Johnny Smith, alias John C. Wynert, and Worth were disposing of the diamonds they still kept an eye to business. They made the acquaintance of Mr. Proctor, a dealer in rough diamonds and a proprietor of diamond lands in South Africa, who received from the Cape of Good Hope every fortnight a package of diamonds worth from \$50,000, to \$60,000. Worth, Wynert and Megotti, a European thief, cultivated Proctor's acquaintance, and while Megotti went with Proctor to a Turkish bath, Worth and Wynert obtained an impression of his safe key in wax. They were aware that Proctor went every two weeks to the Bank of England to receive the above mentioned package of diamonds and to bring it to his office and lock it in his safe. Upon the night of one of these periods when Mr. Proctor had been to the Bank of England his safe was robbed, but luckily for him, he had not received a package of diamonds from the Cape upon that trip, and all that the burglars got for their trouble upon this occasion were a few hundred pounds sterling in money and goods.

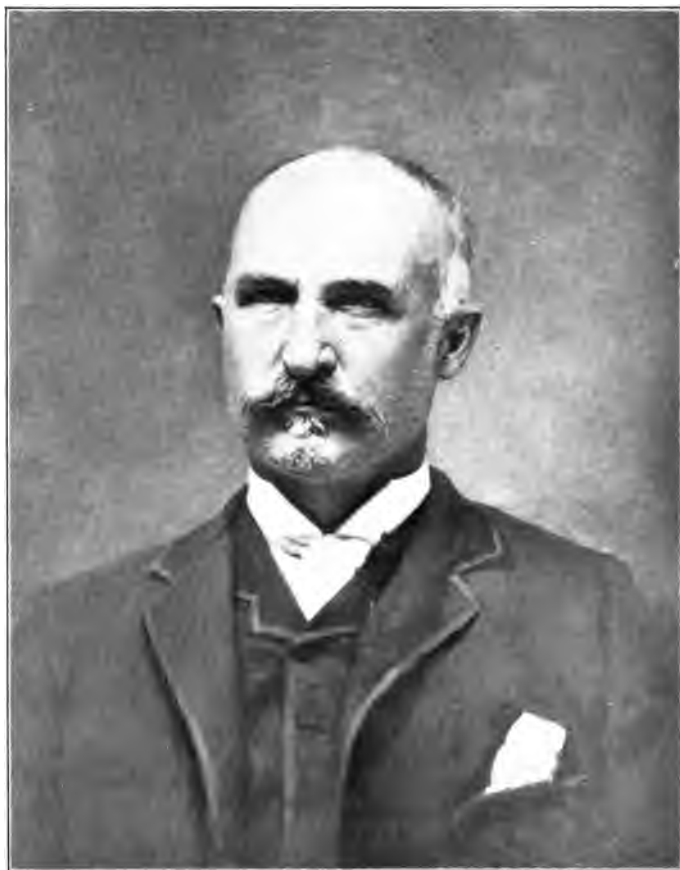
One would have thought that with this amount of money Worth would have retired, but the gambling propensity was so strong in him, and the desire for other fields led him into a still further life of crime, and he was eventually arrested at Liege, Belgium, for the attempted robbery of one of the wagons carrying registered mail going to a bank in that city. He had previously fitted a key to the lock on the wagon, and had sent a false package to deliver, which would require the driver to leave the wagon for a *short time* to make the delivery. Leaving a confederate to watch for the



MRS. JOSEPH B. (LYDIA) CHAPMAN.

driver's return, Worth jumped on the seat of the carriage, unlocked the door, and had the valuable contents of the wagon in his possession, when he discovered that his confederate had failed to give the signal ; the driver returned and found the door open, which Worth, in his haste, had not had a chance to lock, and at once gave the alarm. Worth was arrested, being caught about a block away, was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment in Belgium. This was the first and only conviction ever had against him in a long career of crime. While he was confined in prison in Belgium, he was visited by the American Consul, who claimed to represent a prominent police official in America, and offering to pay him \$3,000 and effect his liberation from imprisonment for information that would lead to the recovery of the Gainsborough portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire. Worth, fearing treachery on their part, and not caring to trust either of them, declined to have anything to do with the matter, claiming that he knew nothing about the picture, and that all stories to the contrary were false. Later on his own solicitor in Belgium came to him and made a similar proposition, representing the English authorities, and his solicitor brought word with him from the Home Secretary in Belgium that his release would follow the return of the picture, but fearing duplicity, as before, he refused to have anything to do with it, or even admit to his own lawyer that he knew anything whatever about the picture.

While in prison in Belgium, he found Maximillian Schoenbein, better known as "Count " Shinburne, an old time bank burglar and a former acquaintance, who himself had fled from America after robbing the Ocean Bank in New York of about \$700,000, or \$800,000; going to Belgium, where he is said to have bought a baronetcy; but after living a number of years in that country, speculations on the Bourse "broke" him, and he again started out on a life of crime. Shinburne, in company with Worth's old partner, Charley Bullard, attempted to rob a bank at Liege, Belgium, was arrested, convicted, and was serving a term of imprisonment in Belgium when Worth reached there. Schoenbein, alias Shinburne, was an overbearing tyrant in prison. He had managed to curry favor with the prison officials, held a petty position over other prisoners, and did everything in his power to inflict punishment on his old friends, and was the cause of numerous punishments being inflicted on Worth. Shinburn was noted in prison as a "give away" on the other prisoners, and the spy of the keeper, and eventually, on account of rendering such services, was liberated ; came back



MAXIMILLIAN SCHOENBEIN,
Alias MAX SHINBURNE; alias BARON SCHINDLE.
A Celebrated Bank- Vault and Safe Burglar.



to America, was arrested by the Pinkertons for the attempted robbery of the First National Bank of Middletown, N. Y., sentenced to 4 years in the State prison ; and on his release was taken to New Hampshire, to serve an unexpired sentence, he having escaped from there 30 years previously.

Worth came out of prison broken in health, and financially a wreck. On his arrival he met with an old acquaintance, Patrick F. Sheedy, a sporting man known throughout the world, from whom he received financial assistance. Sheedy, recollecting a conversation which he had with Wm. A. Pinkerton in Chicago a number of years ago, that he (Pinkerton) was satisfied Worth controlled the Gainsborough portrait, and asked him (Sheedy) if he ever could assist in the matter, whether he would like to bring about a plan for the restoration of the picture ; that he (Pinkerton) was well acquainted with Worth personally, and he thought with Sheedy's assurance, Worth would be satisfied to trust himself in his hands. Sheedy accordingly broached the subject to Worth, and Worth, having confidence in Sheedy's statement, and also in the fact that if Mr. Pinkerton passed his word he would keep it, decided to make a trip to America. One stormy day, early in January, 1899, shortly after Mr. Pinkerton arrived at his office in Chicago, he received a telegram dated at the Chicago and Northwestern depot, Chicago, and reading as follows : "Letter awaiting you at house ; send for it" (signed) Roy. Having just left home, Mr. Pinkerton called up his house on the telephone, asked his daughter if any letter had been received for him, and she replied that shortly after he left a strange man had called and left a letter, stating it was important, and requesting that it be delivered to Mr. Pinkerton personally, and to nobody else. Mr. Pinkerton instructed that the letter be sent to his office immediately, and on opening it found that it emanated from Adam Worth, whom Mr. Pinkerton had not seen in 17 or 18 years. The letter intimated that he had come to this country at the request of Sheedy, for the purpose of seeing Mr. Pinkerton in connection with a confidential matter ; that if Mr. Pinkerton was in a position to assure him that no harm would come to him through the interview, if he called to see him, and talked over the matter which he had discussed with Mr. Sheedy, which would be of mutual interest to Mr. Pinkerton and himself, and an advertisement be placed in one of the evening papers in Chicago stating that letter was received and everything was all right, he would then consider that he had Mr. Pinkerton's word of honor and would respond. The advertisement was published and about 11 o'clock the follow-

ing morning Mr. Pinkerton received a call on the telephone at his office; responded to same, and found himself in conversation with Adam Worth. Mr. Pinkerton assured him that he could call at the office with impunity, and within five minutes Worth was ushered into Mr. Pinkerton's presence, being the first time they had met in many years. They sat down and talked over old times, and eventually led up to the story of the picture. Mr. Pinkerton had previously told him what he had heard about the matter, through Mr. Robt. A. Pinkerton; that is, the statement made years before by Joe Elliott. He corrected some parts of Elliott's story, which was in the main correct, and then proceeded to detail all the facts in connection with not only the stealing of the picture, but his past life, as narrated above, the understanding being that Mr. Pinkerton, under no circumstances, was to make use of these facts during his lifetime. He left it optional with Mr. Pinkerton, after his death, to do whatever he saw fit in connection with publishing his name and the fact of his making these statements, and being the perpetrator of the theft. Mr. Pinkerton explained the friendly relations which existed between his Agency and the authorities at Scotland Yard, and that under no circumstances would he do anything that the authorities at Scotland Yard did not acquiesce in, and it would take time to bring these matters about. These facts were immediately communicated to Mr. Robt. A. Pinkerton in New York, who at once laid them before Supt. Donald Swanson of the Criminal Investigation Department, New Scotland Yard, for whom Frank C. Froest, Inspector of Detectives, New Scotland Yard, had been working on the case for a great many years, and who had practically got the same information which Pinkerton had, but without the proof, or without the means of effecting a conviction of the thieves. Sheedy, in talking the matter over with Mr. Pinkerton and Worth, had insisted on one agreement, that whatever he did, there should be nobody punished or injured on that account; that he would do it as a matter of friendship, and in order that the lost art treasure might be restored. Sheedy took the position that the restoration of this picture to the art world was of great importance, and it could only be done in the manner suggested, and if anybody was to be punished, the picture would never be restored so far as he was concerned. Worth thought that the reward offered for the return of the picture amounted to considerable more than the Agnews through the London police had offered in their circular. These facts were communicated to the Agnews through Supt. Swanson at Scotland Yard, and brought back a reply from Lewis & Lewis, prominent

solicitors in London, who were acting for the Agnews. For the time being the matter hung fire, and it was at last abandoned on account of the amount involved for the return of the picture, and the attorneys claiming that the picture did not exist, and that this must be a ruse on the part of some sharp Americans to best the Agnews. Mr. Sheedy, at that time, was in England, and on these facts being communicated to him, he made a proposition to Inspector Froest to go to the Agnews and offer them the return of the picture gratis, providing they would allow him the privilege of putting the picture on exhibition for four months, which the solicitors, Lewis & Lewis, declined to accept. Another proposition was submitted a month afterwards, which was, that if the Agnews would allow Sheedy to make a steel engraving of the picture, and let him control the plate, that the picture would be restored gratis. This must have satisfied the owners that the picture was really in existence, for on January 16th, 1901, the Pinkertons received a cablegram from Supt. Swanson, Scotland Yard, instructing them to take up the matter of the stolen picture, and bring about its return, and the terms asked for by Worth would be accepted, providing it was the genuine picture, and an identifying witness would come forward immediately from England, Mr. Pinkerton at once communicated with Mr. Sheedy to locate Worth, and have him come to America. Sheedy knew a private address that Worth knew in London, and the latter was cabled to at one or two points to go to this address and get an important letter. Immediately on receipt of the letter, Worth cabled Sheedy that he would come over on the first steamer, and when it was known he had sailed, the Pinkertons cabled to London to have the identifying witness come to the United States. In response to this, Supt. Swanson cabled that Mr. C. Moreland Agnew had left on the steamer Etruria of the Cunard Line, on Saturday, March 15th, 1901, for America. The steamer was a day or two late, and on Mr. Agnew's arrival in New York, he was met by a representative of the Pinkertons, and advised to go to Chicago. He arrived in Chicago on the evening of March 27th, 1901, and was met by Mr. Wm. A. Pinkerton, who told him that the next morning he would be in a position to place the picture in his possession. The following morning, about 10 o'clock, Mr. Agnew called at Mr. Pinkerton's office, and the financial end of the matter being arranged, he immediately returned to the hotel, where, while Mr. Pinkerton, Mr. Agnew and his wife were sitting in the room, a rap came to the door, and on being opened, they were confronted by a man with a large parcel, who asked for Mr. Agnew,



L. CHARLES BECKER.
Alias "THE DUTCHMAN."
A Celebrated Penman and Forger.

handed him the parcel, and immediately left. Mr. Agnew stopped for a moment, and Mr. Pinkerton suggested that he open the parcel. He laid it carefully on the floor, opened the package, and there the face of the famous painting came to light for the first time in 26 years. It was in a perfect state of preservation. Mr. Pinkerton, who sat alongside of Mr. Agnew, watched his features closely, and saw his eyes fill up for a moment, and then rising to his feet, he took Mr. Pinkerton by the hand, congratulated him and said he had at last got the picture. Mrs. Agnew was equally grateful. Mr. Pinkerton told him to make no mistake ; that he must use every possible test, measurement, etc. on the picture before he decided on the matter. He said he would do this, and then applied the different tests which are made use of to tell genuine pictures, and the result is told in his own words: "I am positive the picture is the original one' stolen from my father's gallery 26 years ago." Mr. Agnew was then very anxious to leave Chicago, so that he could return on the Etruria to Europe. He went with Mr. Pinkerton to one of the noted art galleries in Chicago, purchased proper packing for the picture. Mr. Pinkerton accompanied Mr. Agnew and his wife to the train, and placed the picture in the drawing room of the Limited Express going to New York. On arrival of the train at New York, Mr. Agnew was met by agents from the Pinkerton office in New York, who took possession of the picture, and kept it under guard all night at the Agency, and the following morning delivered it to Mr. Agnew in his stateroom aboard the steamer bound for Liverpool. There was nothing said about the recovery of the picture by anybody until it was known that the Etruria had arrived at an English port. One reason for keeping the matter so quiet, was that if the Custom House officers wanted to be disagreeable about it, they could have demanded that duty be paid on the picture, and while they probably would not have forced collection, it might have caused a great deal of unnecessary trouble. The owners also feared the picture might be stolen. Many stories have been published to the effect that Worth came out from England on the same steamer with Mr. Agnew, and returned on the same steamer with him. This is positively untrue. Worth was in America before Mr. Agnew arrived, and remained in America 10 days after his departure, and was not advised by either Sheedy or the Pinkertons as to what steamer Mr. Agnew returned to England on. The fact of Mr. Agnew's or Worth's presence in America was kept entirely from everybody but those directly interested, and Worth left, going back to Europe as quietly as he arrived.

It was discovered when Mr. Pinkerton saw Worth in America for the first time in years, that he was very much broken in health, and Worth then told him he was suffering from a disease which he had contracted in the Belgium prison, that he suffered from violent headaches, which were driving him crazy, and that he only got relief when his nose bled, which it frequently did. After his return to Europe the first time, he wrote Mr. Pinkerton a letter, stating his condition was worse than ever before, and that he was liable to be found dead at any time, and that in the event of his death he had left an order to be forwarded to him (Pinkerton) for a parcel, which he could claim, and all he asked was whatever money was gotten out of it should go for the benefit of his two little children, who were all he had in the world to care for, and who knew nothing of his past career. On his return to America the second time, Mr. Pinkerton was startled to see how much he had failed. When he went back to England, he took his children along, and fitted up a nice home, and lived a comparatively quiet life up to the 8th of January 1902, when he quietly passed away after much suffering. He had been temporarily left alone by the nurse, who on returning to the room, found him dead. He left word with his son, that in the event of his death, the fact should be communicated to Mr. W. A. Pinkerton, and his wishes were carried out.

The last noted crime which Worth was connected with, and which has up to this time been a mystery, as no one was arrested for it, and it has never been known except by suspicion who committed the crime, was the theft from a mail wagon from the Gard du Nord, a package that was being shipped to the Credit Lyonnais, containing \$700,000, in French money. Keys to the mail wagon had been fitted by Worth, and the robbery was successfully accomplished by him. A year later a similar robbery was committed by Worth at the same place, the package being consigned to the same bank, and on this occasion, he succeeded in getting away safely with \$560,000. Both of the robberies were shrouded in mystery, and no one was ever arrested for them. These were his last robberies.

In the death of Adam Worth there probably departed the greatest inventive, daring criminal of modern times. This may be said of him in his favor, that in the prosperous days when he had money, he was generous to a fault, never let a friend come to him a second time, and held out a helping hand to everybody in distress, whether in his mode of life or not. Anybody with whom he had a speaking acquaintance could always come to him and

